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COSTA RICA EXPECTS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA TO BE LIFTED SOON

C111851 PANAMA CITY PRELA IN SPANISH TO PRELA HAVANA 1657 GMT 11 AUG 74 C

(TEXT) SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, 11 AUG--COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO YESTERDAY TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE BELIEVED THE SO-CALLED SANCTIONS OF THE OAS AGAINST CUBA WOULD BE LIFTED "VERY SOON." FACIO SAID IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE OAS TO DECIDE "WHETHER CONDITIONS THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA STILL PREVAIL OR NO LONGER EXIST." COSTA RICA, AS WELL AS MOST LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, HE CONTINUED, FEEL THAT THE SANCTIONS SHOULD BE LIFTED.

IN REQUESTING THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE MATTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID: WE ARE NOT PLACING CUBA IN THE DEFENDANT'S DOCK, AS IT HAS BEEN ERRONEOUSLY INTERPRETED. ON THE CONTRARY, HE ADDED, WE ARE TRYING TO PROCURE JUSTICE IN A CASE THAT SHOULD BE REVISED AND SETTLED.

FACIO MENTIONED A NEWS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON CLAIMING THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, WILLIAM MARILLIARD, HAD SUCCEEDED IN POSTPONING DISCUSSION OF THE CUBAN ISSUE UNTIL AFTER NEXT NOVEMBER. "THAT IS NOT SO," FACIO SAID. "MAILLIARD MET WITH THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT AND MYSELF, BUT AT NO TIME WERE WE WILLING TO POSTPONE THE CUBAN CASE INDEFINITELY, AS THE DISPATCH SEEMED TO IMPLY."

FACIO EMPHATICALLY DENIED MAILLIARD HAD MET COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN. "MAILLIARD DOES NOT EVEN KNOW PRESIDENT MICHELSEN, MUCH LESS CAN ANYONE SAY THEY ARE FRIENDS, AS SOME U.S. NEWS AGENCIES CLAIMED."

OFFICIAL SOURCES TODAY REVEALED THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS MET WITH KISSINGER AND SPECIFICALLY TOLD HIM OF THE NEED TO REVISE THE CUBAN CASE. IT IS A FACT THAT AT LEAST 17 OF THE 21 NATIONS WHO HAVE A RIGHT TO VOTE ON THE REVISION OF THIS CASE FAVOR THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA.

11 AUG 2227Z PH/HH